

## **NUN STUDY**

The Nun Study is a longitudinal study of aging and Alzheimer's disease. Participants consist of 678 American members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame religious congregation who are 75 to 106 years of age.

### **Listing of study variables & measurement of variables**

#### **Cognitive Test Battery:**

(included measures compiled by the Consortium to Establish a Registry for Alzheimer's)

#### **Disease (CERAD):**

- Memory: word memory test, delayed word recall, word recognition
- Language: Boston naming, verbal fluency
- Visuospatial ability
- Concentration
- Orientation
- MMSE

#### **Construational Praxis:**

- component of the Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale (Rosen et al. 1984)
- Controlled oral word association test
- Logical memory
- Trail Making Test
- Benton Visual Retention Test

#### **Social & Daily Functioning:**

- Evaluation of six activities of daily living: performance-based measures, nursing reports and self-reports
- Performance Test of Activities of Daily Living and Simulated Activities of Daily Living: these tests include measurement of complex daily activities.

#### **Neuropathologic Evaluation of the participants' brain:**

- Brain infarcts
- Criteria for Alzheimer's disease required an individual to have abundant senile plaques in the frontal, temporal, or parietal lobe, and neurofibrillary tangles in at least one lobe of the neocortex.

#### **Other variables:**

- occupational
- demographic
- linguistic
- physical abilities
- nutrition
- death & survival
- family and social support